United Nations A/C.1/63/1

General Assembly

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24 September 2008

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Sixty-third session
First Committee

Allocation of agenda items to the First Committee

Letter dated 19 September 2008 from the President of the General Assembly to the Chairman of the First Committee

I have the honour to inform you of the decisions taken by the General Assembly at the 2nd plenary meeting of its sixty-third session, on 19 September 2008, pertaining to the allocation of items to the First Committee.

I wish to draw your attention to the relevant parts of sections III and IV of the report of the General Committee (A/63/250) concerning the agenda of the Main Committees.

May I also draw your attention to the recommendations on the organization of the session contained in section II of the same report. Those recommendations were also approved by the General Assembly at its 2nd plenary meeting.

(*Signed*) Miguel **d'Escoto Brockmann**

08-52259 (E) 260908

First Committee

1. Election of the officers of the Main Committees [5].

G. Disarmament

2. Reduction of military budgets [81].
3. Prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons: report of the Conference on Disarmament [82].
4. Maintenance of international security — good-neighbourliness, stability and development in South-Eastern Europe [83].
5. Role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament [84].
6. Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security [85].
7. Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East [86].
8. Conclusion of effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons [87].
9. Prevention of an arms race in outer space [88].
10. General and complete disarmament [89]:
    (a) Notification of nuclear tests;
    (b) Missiles;
    (c) Problems arising from the accumulation of conventional ammunition stockpiles in surplus;
    (d) Disarmament and non-proliferation education;
    (e) Consolidation of peace through practical disarmament measures;
    (f) Transparency in armaments;
    (g) Information on confidence-building measures in the field of conventional arms;
    (h) Mongolia's international security and nuclear-weapon-free status;
    (i) Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia;
    (j) Assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons and collecting them;
    (k) Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction;
    (l) Towards a nuclear-weapon-free world: accelerating the implementation of nuclear disarmament commitments;

(m) Promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation;

(n) Observance of environmental norms in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms control;

(o) Convening of the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament;

(p) Effects of the use of armaments and ammunitions containing depleted uranium;

(q) Reducing nuclear danger;

(r) Measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction;

(s) Nuclear-weapon-free southern hemisphere and adjacent areas;

(t) Regional disarmament;

(u) Follow-up to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the *Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons*;

(v) Nuclear disarmament;

(w) Transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities;

(x) Conventional arms control at the regional and subregional levels;

(y) Confidence-building measures in the regional and subregional context;

(z) The illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects;

(aa) Relationship between disarmament and development;

(bb) United Nations conference to identify appropriate ways of eliminating nuclear dangers in the context of nuclear disarmament.

11. Review and implementation of the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly [90]:

(a) United Nations disarmament fellowship, training and advisory services;

(b) United Nations Disarmament Information Programme;

(c) United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean;

(d) United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament;

(e) Convention on the Prohibition of the Use of Nuclear Weapons;

(f) United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific;

(g) Regional confidence-building measures: activities of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa;

(h) United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa.

12. Review of the implementation of the recommendations and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session [91]:

(a) Report of the Disarmament Commission;

(b) Report of the Conference on Disarmament.

13. The risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East [92].

14. Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects [93].

15. Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region [94].

16. Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty [95].

17. Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction [96].

I. Organizational, administrative and other matters

18. Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly.

19. Programme planning.

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A/C.1/63/2

General Assembly

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First Committee

Programme of work and timetable of the First Committee for 2008

Programme meeting	*Dates*	*Number of meetings*
Meeting for the organization of work	Thursday, 2 October	1
General debate on all disarmament and international security agenda items[1]	Monday, 6 October, to Tuesday, 14 October	7
Closure of the list of speakers for the general debate on all disarmament and international security agenda items	Tuesday, 7 October, at 6 p.m.	
Thematic discussion on item subjects and introduction and consideration of all draft resolutions submitted under agenda items, including:	Wednesday, 15 October, to Monday, 27 October	10
(a) Exchange with the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs on follow-up of resolutions and decisions adopted by the Committee at its past session and presentation of reports		
(b) Exchange with the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs and other high-level officials		
(c) Panel discussions and exchanges with independent experts[2]		

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Programme meeting	*Dates*	*Number of meetings*
Deadline for submission of draft resolutions under all agenda items	Thursday, 16 October, at 12 p.m.	
Action on all draft resolutions submitted under agenda items	Tuesday, 28 October, to Tuesday, 4 November	6

[1] A rolling list of speakers was open one month in advance of the beginning of the session. Delegations are encouraged to limit the time of their statements to a maximum of 10 minutes, and statements on behalf of a group of countries should not exceed 15 minutes. The list gives priority to high-level representatives and will be regularly shared with the Committee so as to increase transparency.

[2] Wide civil society participation is encouraged.

Annex

Disarmament and International Security Committee (First Committee)

Week	*Monday*	*Tuesday*	*Wednesday*	*Thursday*	*Friday*
29 September-3 October	29 September	30 September Holiday	1 October	2 October Afternoon	3 October
6-10 October	6 October Morning	7 October Morning	8 October Morning	9 October Morning	10 October Morning
13-17 October	13 October Afternoon	14 October Afternoon	15 October Afternoon	16 October Afternoon	17 October Afternoon
20-24 October	20 October Morning	21 October Morning and afternoon	22 October Morning	23 October Morning	24 October Afternoon
27-31 October	27 October Afternoon	28 October Afternoon	29 October Afternoon	30 October Afternoon	31 October Morning
3-7 November	3 November Morning	4 November Morning	5 November	6 November	7 November

Note: The Committee will exercise flexibility in scheduling meetings during the last two weeks of the session, without prejudice to decisions to be taken by the General Assembly at its sixty-third session.

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General Assembly

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Sixty-third session
First Committee
Agenda item 89
General and complete disarmament

Letter dated 3 October 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Chairman of the First Committee

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the statement by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States Members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization made at the meeting held in Moscow on 4 September 2008.

I would greatly appreciate your assistance in circulating the statement as a document of the First Committee of the General Assembly.

(*Signed*) Armen **Martirosyan**
Permanent Representative

08-53717 (E) 081008

Annex to the letter dated 3 October 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Chairman of the First Committee

Statement by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States Members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization

Moscow, 4 September 2008

We, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States Members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), note the vital importance of further efforts for the active and intense development of partner cooperation within the framework of the CSTO, with a view to strengthening global security and strategic stability and jointly countering emerging threats to peace, including international terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. At the same time, we consider it necessary to preserve and build on the key arrangements in the sphere of strategic offensive arms, which have served, over the last few decades, as the foundation for the maintenance of international stability and security.

We regard the fulfilment by the States parties of their obligations under the START Treaty as a major step on the path to nuclear disarmament and a genuine contribution to the realization of the goals set forth in the article IV of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

We welcome the intention of the two parties to the United States — Russian Strategic Framework Declaration adopted on 6 April 2008, in Sochi, to carry out strategic offensive potential reduction to the lowest possible level and to continue development of a legally binding arrangement to replace START following its expiry on 5 December 2009.

We consider that such an arrangement could incorporate all the best elements of the current START Treaty, while setting new reduced and verifiable levels for both strategic carriers (intercontinental ballistic missiles, submarine-launched ballistic missiles and heavy bombers) and the warheads deployed on them.

We consider that the achievement of such arrangement would guarantee stability and predictability in strategic relations among the major nuclear countries and strengthen confidence in progress towards the total destruction of nuclear weapons in the world.

Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia

Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus

Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan

Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic

Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation

Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan

Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan

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Sixty-third session
First Committee
Agenda item 89
General and complete disarmament

Letter dated 7 October 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Lithuania to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the report of the Chairman of the international seminar on sea-dumped chemical weapons: perspectives of international cooperation, held in Vilnius on 30 September and 1 October 2008 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 89.

(*Signed*) Dalius **Čekuolis**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

08-54145 (E) 091008

Annex to the letter dated 7 October 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Lithuania to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Report of the Chairman of the international seminar on sea-dumped chemical weapons: perspectives of international cooperation

1. The international seminar on sea-dumped chemical weapons: perspectives of international cooperation, held in Vilnius on 30 September and 1 October 2008, gathered together representatives and experts from 27 States from Europe, Africa, Asia and North America, as well as from the United Nations, the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, the European Union, the Helsinki Commission, academic and research institutions, non-governmental organizations and the private sector.

2. The participants discussed ecological, safety and security challenges and threats posed by sea-dumped chemical weapons in various parts of the world, as well as national and international responses to them. A special focus was devoted to the experience of the Baltic Sea States in dealing with chemical weapons dumped in the Baltic Sea. The prevailing view of the participants was that there was a rising need to intensify discussions in addressing such challenges and concerns.

3. Interest was expressed in promoting dialogue and broader engagement on the issue of sea-dumped chemical weapons within international and regional forums and frameworks. Possible security, economic, environmental and health impacts of sea-dumped chemical weapons demonstrated the need for international cooperation regarding exchange of information, best practices and technologies.

4. It was also noted that industry was willing to contribute to the process. Over the past decade, technologies for the recovery and destruction of sea-dumped chemical weapons had emerged.

5. The seminar proved to be a welcome opportunity for the exchange of relevant information. The importance of further intensified cooperation among States, relevant international and non-governmental organizations and the private sector with regard to sea-dumped chemical weapons was recognized.

6. Promoting voluntary international and regional cooperation and greater interaction among States and various organizations on sea-dumped chemical weapons was broadly welcomed and supported.